



**TOWN OF RIDGEFIELD**  
Office of the First Selectman

TESTIMONY - BILL #5255  
SUBMITTED BY RUDY MARCONI  
FIRST SELECTMAN  
RIDGEFIELD

February 10, 2009

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak to you today about Bill #5255, "AN ACT CONCERNING WATERSHED LANDS". As First Selectman of Ridgefield I have become very aware of the importance of our drinking water supply.

When first elected in 1999 and in office for only 8 months, our community was confronted with a situation that perhaps demonstrates better than any other example I can give you today, the importance of drinking water not only to the people of Ridgefield but what I believe to be representative of the entire state of Connecticut.

Our local public water company had issued a ban on the drinking of our water unless the water was boiled first whether for drinking or cooking and had placed these notices on the doors of the homes of all their customers just prior to July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Why? The reason was that coliform levels had exceeded the allowable limit at our reservoir and the filtration system was not sophisticated enough to provide proper filtration. Water tested in both the reservoir and the pipeline had high levels of coliform. Immediately phones began to ring on Friday afternoon of the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend from many concerned residents as what they were suppose to do. Phone calls about medical issues, and countless other medical concerns, resulted in the need to quickly implement a clean water distribution system. By the end of the weekend we had distributed countless gallons dispersed from many tankers. In the end we coordinated a debriefing for those who suffered from many different ailments especially those who had transplants.

The purpose of my brief story, and believe me it lasted much longer than the previous paragraph, is to ask each of you who sit on this very important committee, to look at watershed protection truly as protection for the people of Connecticut.

Bill #5255 begins to accomplish this very needed protection of our watersheds. Without this protection, the ability of our Department of Public Health to be able to protect the quality of our drinking water will slowly diminish and the example I alluded to earlier

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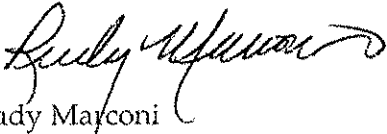
will become more the rule than the exception. We must begin now to oversee and strictly regulate development on drinking water watershed lands!

We, the municipalities, need the Public Health Committee's help. We need you to be strong and proactive in passing a bill that truly protects the drinking water watershed lands for all of Connecticut.

We DO NOT some day want to have to reach an agreement with several other states on how we can share drinking water as we are now hearing about in the southern states of Georgia and Florida.

We DO NOT want to read in the near future how potable water tests are beginning to exhibit traces of prescription drugs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rudy Mayconi", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rudy Mayconi  
First Selectman